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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, HA
SUBJECT: HAITI: CONGRESSIONAL LETTER

1. THERE FOLLOWS AT PARAGRAPH 2 THE TEXT OF A LETTER ON
HAITI SIGNED BY NINE SENATORS AND SEVEN CONGRESSMAN.
REQUEST POST PROVIDE COMMENTS AT EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.

2. BEGIN TEXT

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

WE ARE WRITING TO URGE YOU TO REJECT THE RESULTS OF THE
JANUARY 17 ELECTIONS IN HAITI AND TO ISOLATE THE
GOVERNMENT OF LESLIE MANIGAT WHICH IS TO BE INAUGURATED ON
FEBRUARY 7. THE INAUGURATION WAS TO HAVE USHERED IN AN
ERA OF DEMOCRACY IN A COUNTRY THAT HAS GONE TOO LONG
WITHOUT. YET TO OUR BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT, THE OLD
DUVALIER ELEMENTS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN BLOCKING THE
DEMOCRATIC ASPIRATIONS OF THE HAITIAN PEOPLE.

RATHER THAN A REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, FREELY ELECTED
AND COMMITTED TO THE RULE OF LAW, THE HAITIAN PEOPLE NOW
CONFRONT A REGIME -- IN ESSENCE IDENTICAL TO THAT OF THE
DUVALIER ERA -- THAT HAS NO LEGITIMACY. THERE CAN BE NO
DOUBT THAT THE JANUARY 17 ELECTION WAS A CYNICAL FRAUD
WHOSE LEGITIMACY HAS BEEN TOTALLY UNDERMINED BY NUMEROUS
REPORTS OF MULTIPLE VOTING, VOTING BY MINORS, AND OTHER
WIDESPREAD IRREGULARITIES. MOREOVER, THE EXTREMELY LOW
TURNOUT OF VOTERS AND BOYCOTT BY ALL THE MAJOR CANDIDATES
REPRESENT IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE THAT THE HAITIAN PEOPLE
REJECTED THIS GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED ELECTION.

SINCE JANUARY 17, ARBITRARY KILLINGS AIMED AT INTIMIDATING
THE PEOPLE INTO SUBMISSION HAVE CONTINUED. WE SHARE THE
DISGUST AND SADNESS OF THE HAITIAN PEOPLE IN THE AFTERMATH
OF THIS DEBACLE. WE ALSO SHARE THEIR RESOLVE AND
COMMITMENT TO BRING ABOUT THE FREE, FAIR AND OPEN
ELECTIONS FOR WHICH SO MANY OF THEM HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES.

OUR COMMITMENT TO THAT GOAL MUST TAKE A TANGIBLE AND
FORCEFUL FORM. WE THEREFORE URGE THE ADMINISTRATION TO
TAKE TWO STEPS WHICH WILL MAKE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR OUR
GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS. FIRST,
THE UNITED STATES SHOULD SIGNAL ITS REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE
LEGITIMACY OF THE NEW REGIME BY WITHHOLDING REPRESENTATION
AT THE FEBRUARY INAUGURATION. NO REPRESENTATIVE OF THE

*Sen Kennedy
Oberstar
Deconcini
Mataunaga
Berman
Crockett
William Gray
Kerry
Graham
Fawcett
Bradley
McCain
Towns
Fasell
Lugar
Moyse*

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE PART.

SECOND, THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION YOU SIGNED INTO LAW ON DECEMBER 22 URGES THE UNITED STATES TO CONSIDER FURTHER COMPREHENSIVE TRADE AND FINANCIAL SANCTIONS AGAINST THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING SUSPENSION OF HAITI'S ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS UNDER THE CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE. WE URGE YOU TO IMPLEMENT SPECIFIC SANCTIONS TO ISOLATE THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI.

WE MUST VIGOROUSLY REITERATE THAT WE STAND WITH THE HAITIAN PEOPLE AS THEY CONTINUE THEIR COURAGEOUS STRUGGLE TO WIN THE RIGHT TO FREELY SELECT THEIR LEADERS. THE MEMORY OF MEN AND WOMEN LINING UP TO RESUME CASTING BALLOTS AFTER BEING SPRAYED WITH AUTOMATIC GUNFIRE DURING

THE NOVEMBER 29 ELECTION WILL NOT SOON BE FORGOTTEN. THE HAITIAN PEOPLE HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR COMMITMENT TO A DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION. THEY DESERVE OUR UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT.

SINCERELY

(SIGNED)

EDWARD M. KENNEDY

JAMES L. OBERSTAR

DENNIS DECONCINI

SPARK M. MATSUNAGA

HOWARD L. BERMAN

GEORGE W. CROCKETT, JR.

WILLIAM H. GRAY III

JOHN F. KERRY

BOB GRAHAM

WALTER FAUNTROY

BILL BRADLEY

JOHN MCCAIN

EDOLPHUS TOWNS

DANTE B. FASCELL

RICHARD G. LUGAR

DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN

END TEXT

SHULTZ

END OF MESSAGE

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